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AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR OVERSEAS AID

(INCORPORATED IN THE ACT)

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Luisa T Pereira
Ana Nunes
CDPM
Rua Pinheiro Chagas 77, 2esq
Lisbon I,
PORTUGAL

Dear Luisa and Ana

Hi!

Attached are two documents that you may or may not have seen.

The document in Indonesian is a request to LPHAM to open a human rights office in Dili. I concluded from my conversations with LPHAM and LBH that, while very aware of the problems in ET, they are reluctant to open an office because they believe that, as Indonesians they may not get the trust of the local people and this would substantially impede their work, and because they believe that such an Indonesian office would, or could, be construed as support for integration and they do not want to provide that.

Document two was prepared by me separately from, and unaware of, the other initiative. The difficulties in establishing and operating a Church based office directly working on human rights are, of course, formidable. However I believe the idea has merit and should be discussed. I have argued the case in the document. The only new point I would add here is that Indonesia is playing around quite a bit with human rights ideas at the moment -CHR, talks to Australia and Philippines about their human rights commissions etc, and this improves the climate for something in ET.

Bishop Belo has not responded to my memo. However I have had some good response from one or two of the clergy.

I have now decided to talk more widely about the idea, hence this letter to you. Your ideas would be appreciated. Have sent copies to CAFOD, CIIR, AI etc. and am talking about it with Church people here.

All the very best

Pat

Pat Walsh

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ACFOA is the co-ordinating body for some 90 Australian non-government organisations working in the field of overseas aid and development.

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PETISI RAKYAT TIMOR TIMUR UNTUK PEMBUKAAN(ESTABLISMENT) SEKRETARIAT "LEMBAGA PEMBELA HAK-HAK AZASI MANUSIA DI TIMOR TIMUR.

Nomor : 01 Tahun 1990
Sifat : Sangat mendesak
Perihal : PETISI

Timor Timur, 15 Mei 1990

KEPADA YTH:

BAPAK HAJI PRINCEN
DIREKTUR LEMBAGA PEMBELA
HAK-HAK AZASI MANUSIA DI
JAKARTA - INDONESIA

Dengan hormat,

Kami, yang bertanda tangan di bawah ini, mewakili rakyat Timor Timur dan atas nama rakyat Timor Timur, dengan rendah hati dan penuh harapan datang ke hadapan Yang Mulia Bapak Haji Princen, Direktur Lembaga Pembela Hak-Hak Azasi Manusia di Indonesia seraya mengajukan permohonan untuk "PEMBUKAAN SEKRETARIAT" daripada Lembaga Pembela Hak-Hak Azasi Manusia di Timor Timur.

Hal-hal yang mendesak kami untuk mengajukan permohonan ini adalah terus-menerusnya Pelanggaran Hak-Hak Azasi Manusia di Timor Timur yang dilakukan oleh pihak ABRI dan para penguasa sipil secara tidak manusiawi terhadap rakyat Timor Timur antara lain:

1. Penangkapan tanpa syarat dan alasan terhadap rakyat kecil atau "innocent people" dan para mahasiswa serta anak-anak sekolah yang dituduh oleh ABRI sebagai pemberontak.

2. Penyiksaan dan pembunuhan secara tak manusiawi terhadap ribuan orang yang ditangkap atau sudah menyerah dari hutan dengan "electric shocks", pemukulan atau pembakaran tubuh, rambut, sex atau pemotongan jari-jari tangan, telinga dan tubuh seperti dilakukan pada binatang-binatang.

3. Perkosaan terhadap kaum wanita baik dewasa maupun di bawah umur seperti anak-anak sekolah dan lain-lainnya.

4. Pengarahan serta latihan militer secara paksa kepada penduduk setempat untuk membantu para tentara dalam peperangan dan untuk melakukan tindakan keji dan pembunuhan terhadap rakyat kecil dan pemberontak.

5. Pengejaran terhadap peminpin-pemimpin Gereja Katholik dan kaum intelektual TimTim yang dengan gigih membela hak-hak fundamental rakyat Timor Timur.

6. Pembatasan terhadap kebebasan berbicara, berkumpul, bersirkulasi/berjalan-jalan dan kegiatan-kegiatan lainnya.

7. Implementasi secara paksa Program Keluarga Berencana dan pembatasan terhadap kelahiran anak-anak dengan sarana-sarana tertentu di luar pengetahuan masyarakat.

8. Pembatasan serta perampasan hak kerja bagi masyarakat pribumi oleh pihak yang berkuasa sehingga menimbulkan banyak pengangguran di kalangan masyarakat dan kaum intelektual.

9. Perampasan secara tidak syah terhadap tanah dan rumah masyarakat Timor Timur serta perampasan terhadap kekayaan milik rakyat dan juga kekayaan alam disertai eksplorasi ilegal atas produk-produk lokal dengan penempatan harga di luar kemampuan masyarakat Timor Timur.

10. Penghapusan secara bertahap identitas Etnik, Religius dan Budaya rakyat Timor Timur.

Masalah-masalah tersebut di atas adalah praktek-praktek sehari-hari pihak ABRI dan beberapa oknum pemerintah serta kaum "pendatang" terhadap rakyat Timor Timur. Itu hanya merupakan sebagian kecil daripada tindakan-tindakan keji dan tak manusiawi yang dialami oleh rakyat "martir" Timor Timur.

Kami berharap Bapak Haji Princen sebagai penanggungjawab terhadap Hak-Hak Azasi Manusia di seluruh Indonesia dapat mengabulkan permintaan rakyat Timor Timur. Sebaliknya, suatu tindakan "tinggal diam dan apati" terhadap situasi tersebut hanya memberi kesempatan untuk bertambahnya Pelanggaran Hak-Hak Azasi Manusia di Timor Timur.

Kami ahkiri permohonan ini dengan sejuta harapan dan sebelumnya tak lupa kami sampaikan "Salam bahagia dan sejahtera" kepada Bapak

dan seluruh Staf dari Lembaga Pembela Hak-Hak Azasi Manusia. Atas perhatian dan bantuan Bapak Haji Princen kami ucapkan limpah terima kasih.

HORMAT KAMI,

YANG MEWAKILI RAKYAT TIMOR TIMUR

Tembusan :

1. Sekretaris Genderal Perserikatan Bangsa-Bangsa
2. Presiden Portugal
3. Menteri Luar Negeri Portugal
4. Direktur Amnesti Internasional di London, Portugal, Belanda dan Australia
5. Direktur Lembaga Hak-Hak Azasi Manusia di Genewa, Portugal, Belanda, Amerika Serikat dan Australia
6. Kongress Amerika Serikat
7. Organizasi International Prison Fellowship
8. Komandan Falintil di Timor Timur
9. Convergencia Nacionalista di Portugal
10. Uskup Dili di Timor Timur
11. Presiden DFSE di Portugal
12. Arsip

Appendix 1

MEMO: to Bishop Carlos Felipe Belo and the Church of East Timor

RE : establishment of a human rights organisation in East Timor

DATE: 14 July 1990

FROM: Pat Walsh, ACFOA.

It is proposed that the Catholic Church establish a body in East Timor to promote and protect the human rights of the East Timorese people and to serve as an authoritative source of reliable information on the situation in East Timor to the international community.

The Catholic Church is the appropriate body to undertake this initiative because of its extensive infrastucture and relationship with the people and because it has the required resources, authority and independence, both locally and internationally, to fulfil this role.

Since the Second Vatican Council, which emphasised the Church's role in the promotion of social justice, such organisations can be found in many dioceses and are usually referred to as Catholic Commissions for Justice and Peace.

In the case of East Timor, such a body could be appropriately called the **John Paul II Commission for Justice and Peace in East Timor** in recognition of the Pope's visit to East Timor last October. On that occasion the Pope expressed his deep concern about the human rights situation in East Timor and spoke of the Church's responsibility to act as 'salt' and 'light' in Timorese society.

The **John Paul II Commission for Justice and Peace in East Timor** would also provide the international Church with a concrete, practical and on-going way of relating to the situation of the East Timorese people and responding to the concerns expressed by the Pope during his historic visit. The Commission is therefore envisaged as an international initiative undertaken by the universal Church in cooperation with the Church in East Timor , taking its inspiration from the Holy Father himself.

Thus it is proposed that a range of prominent Church people known to be concerned about East Timor and drawn from a number of Christian denominations would be invited to act as public patrons and sponsors of the Commission. These are people such as Dom Martins of Setubal, Pastor Jose Salvador of the Portuguese Presbyterian Church Council, Cardinal Sin of the Philippines, Bishop Soma of Japan, representatives of the Christian Conference of Asia and the World Council of Churches, Bishop Finau of Tonga, Cardinal Arnds of Brazil, Bishop Brennan of Australia, Cardinal O'Connor of New York, and the Netherlands Cardinal, to name only some.

Their public moral and financial support would provide the Commission with the resources, profile, protection and international network it would require to carry out its work. Other sections of the Church would be involved with the project by acting on information and proposals provided by the Commission and providing moral and financial support. Such support could also include the establishment and funding of a human rights fund to be administered by the Commission for the benefit

of the victims and families of human rights abuses. Such funds are not uncommon in other parts of the world, having been set up to provide, for example, for victims of torture, and are supported by the United Nations and sometimes by individual governments such as Australia. Another form of support could be the provision of advisory services and skills training.

The objectives of the Commission would be as follows:

1. to monitor the human rights situation in East Timor;
2. to disseminate information and make representations about human rights problems;
3. to provide for the victims and families of human rights abuses;
4. to educate the East Timorese people on the social teaching of the Church.

The precise focus of the Commission would be determined by the circumstances prevailing at any given point of time in East Timor. However it is envisaged that the Commission's mandate would be broadly defined to encompass a range of issues from abuses of individual rights through to emerging new problems such as land disputes.

The successful implementation of these objectives would require at least two steps: first, the appointment to the Commission of an Executive Officer who has demonstrated a strong commitment to human rights and enjoys wide respect; and, second, the full and public support of the Executive Officer and the Commission by both the East Timor Catholic Church and the Church representatives referred to above.

The establishment of such a Commission would constitute a further development of the human rights work that has been done by the Church in East Timor over the years in extremely difficult circumstances. This work has been acknowledged to be the rightful responsibility of the Church and has justifiably earned it widespread admiration.

The Pope's visit, the increased awareness of East Timor in Church circles generated by this visit, and the easing of restrictions on communications with East Timor, now make possible an upgrading of this aspect of the Church's work.

The establishment of a Commission or similar body would significantly improve the human rights situation in East Timor and demonstrate the whole Church's uncompromising commitment and determination to eliminate abuses and promote justice. It would also make a major contribution to international advocacy on behalf of East Timor as this work is often impeded by lack of reliable information and contradictory claims about the situation.

Such an initiative would attract widespread support including from a growing number of Indonesian NGOs and Church people who believe it is time the reality in East Timor was faithfully reported in Indonesia.

July 1990